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NICOLE KIDMAN: "What the WORLD needs NOW is MORE FEMALE DIRECTORS IN HOLLYWOOD!" Amen TOOTS! Then move all HOLLYWOOD to an AUSTRALIAN ISLAND and SINK THE WHOLE THING!

SUNDAY STAR

WEATHER HIGH 16 C

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STAR EXCLUSIVE

Violence against nurses 'out of control,' unions say

Survey finds majority of front-line health-care workers have faced physical threats on the job

SARA MOJTEHEDZADEH

A hospital admitting clerk who is stabbed with a pair of scissors.

A nurse whose head and neck are punctured with [illegible].

A young father comes home day after day from his health-care job with a black eye.

According to a new survey of Ontario health care workers, incidents like these aren't isolated tragedies. In fact, 68 per cent of nurses and personal support workers across the province have experienced physical violence at least once on the job over the past year, a poll conducted for the Ontario Council of Hospital Unions shows. Some 42 per cent experienced at least one incident of sexual harassment or assault.

"Violence is raging really out of control in these hospitals," said Michael Hurley, OCHU's president. "The level of physical violence, sexual harassment, sexual assault, verbal assault and racial name-calling is at a level which is toxic and simply shouldn't be [illegible]."

68% of Ontario nurses and personal support workers reported at least one incident of physical violence on the job over the past year

While the vast majority of [illegible] workers reported experiencing [illegible] violence at least once in the past year, a fifth of those surveyed [illegible] had experienced nine or more [illegible] in the same time frame.

A quarter reported [illegible] at least once because of either physical or non-physical violence.

NURSES continued on A[illegible]